

The Six Traits of Writing Rubric

	Ideas & Content Dev.	Organization	Conventions	Word Choice	Sentence Fluency	Voice
6	Exceptionally clear, focused and interesting. Holds the reader's attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience & purpose.	Organization enhances the central idea(s) and development. Order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily.	Exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are few and minor.	Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. Employs a rich, broad range of carefully chosen words.	Effective flow and rhythm. Shows a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable.	Voice appropriate for the topic, purpose and audience. Deeply committed to the topic, and there is an exceptional sense of "writing to be read." The writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere.
5	Clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader's attention. Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose.	Organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text.	Demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are few and minor.	Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. Employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen.	Has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable.	Voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. Committed to the topic, and there is a sense of "writing to be read." The writing is expressive, engaging or sincere.
4	Clear and focused. Reader can easily understand the main ideas. Support is present, although it may be limited or rather general.	Organization is clear and coherent. Order and structure are present, but may seem formulaic.	Demonstrates control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Minor errors, while perhaps noticeable, do not impede readability.	Words effectively convey the intended message. Employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose.	The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied.	Voice is present. Demonstrates commitment to the topic, and may be a sense of "writing to be read." In places, the writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere.
3	Reader can understand the main ideas, but they may be overly broad or simplistic, and/or ineffective. Supporting detail is often limited, insubstantial, overly general, or occasionally slightly off-topic.	An attempt has been made to organize the writing; however, the overall structure is inconsistent or skeletal.	Demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Errors begin to impede readability.	Language is ordinary, lacking interest, precision & variety, or may be inappropriate to audience & purpose. Does not use word variety; generic and familiar.	The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread.	Commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. Sense of the writer may emerge at times; however, the voice is inappropriately personal/impersonal.
2	Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal.	Lacks a clear organizational structure. Occasional organizational device is discernible; however, the writing is difficult to follow.	Demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. Frequent, significant errors impede readability.	Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact.	The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread.	Provides little sense of involvement or commitment. There is no evidence that the writer has chosen a suitable voice.
1	The writing lacks a central idea or purpose.	Lacks coherence; organization seems haphazard and disjointed. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused.	Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. Severity and frequency of errors are overwhelming.	Extremely limited vocabulary. Filled with misuses of words & obscured meaning. vague or imprecise language.	The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud. Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, or very awkward.	Seems to lack a sense of involvement or commitment.